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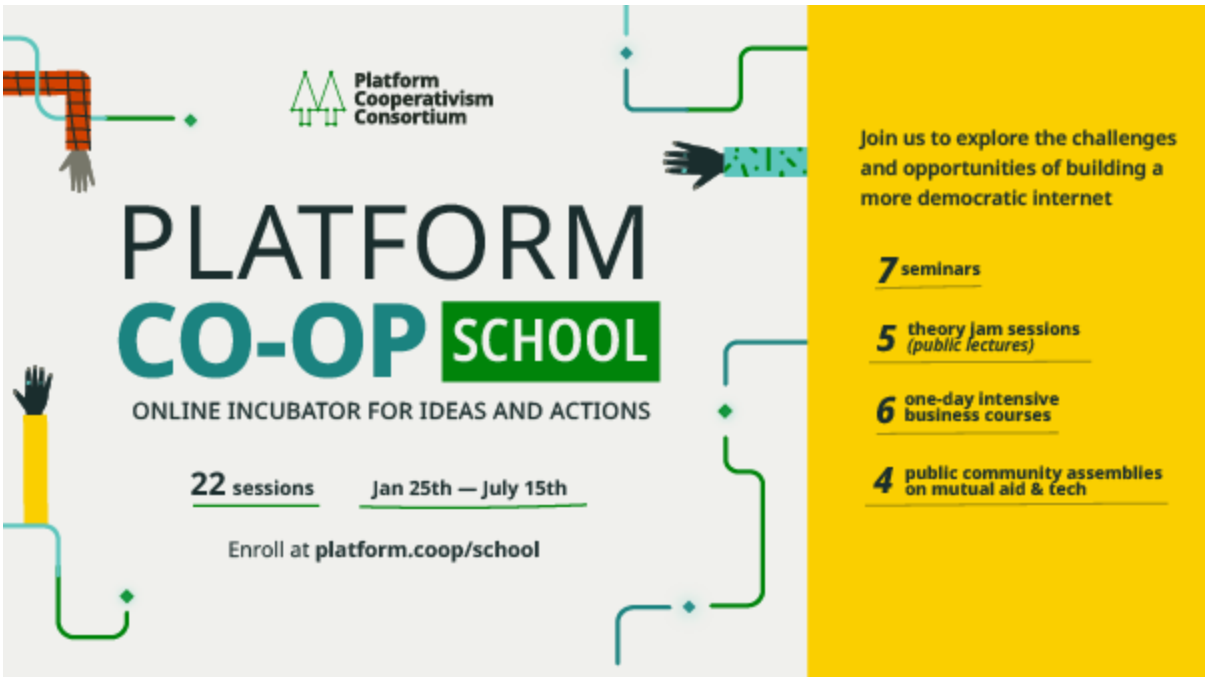
THE 2023/2024 FELLOWS: EXPLORING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE, GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S ACTIVISM, AND CO-OP HISTORY

This year's fellowship cohort is made up of Ph.D. candidates, activists, technologists, platform co-op catalysts, and artists from Madagascar, Thailand, Belgium, India, France, Hong Kong, the United States, and Italy who are investigating topics such as


Platform Cooperativism Consortium
PLATFORM CO-OP SCHOOL
ONLINE INCUBATOR FOR IDEAS AND ACTIONS
22 sessions
Jan 25th — July 15th
Enroll at platform.coop/school
Join us to explore the challenges and opportunities of building a more democratic internet
7 seminars
5 theory jam sessions (public lectures)
6 one-day intensive business courses
4 public community assemblies on mutual aid & tech

LEARN ABOUT PLATFORM CO-OP SCHOOL

Platform Co-op School unites 45 organizations from 24 countries to research, learn about, and build fair, cooperative digital platforms that promote accountable and fair work 🌍

Find out more about the program

FROM DATA COOPERATIVES TO DAOS: THE 2022/2023 ICDE FELLOWS' REPORTS ARE HERE!

At a recent event, seven 2022-2023 fellows discussed their reports on topics such as the potential of web3 technology, the role of municipalities in fostering cooperative ecosystems, and policy recommendations aimed at establishing a more equitable digital economy.
Read the summary or **watch the documentation**.

“DAOs and Platform Cooperatives: Lessons from the Commons”
by **Philémon Poux**
Philemon Poux's ICDE Fellowship report examines the possible use of blockchain for cooperatives, highlighting the significance of community-oriented decision-making and governance principles and suggesting the application of Elinor Ostrom's principles to create community-focused platform cooperatives.
Blog
Report

“State and Local Policy Foundations for Data Cooperatives in the San Francisco Bay Area”
by **Katya Abazajian**
Katya Abazajian's report analyzes the policy environment for data cooperatives in the San Francisco Bay Area, highlighting the potential for collaboration between data cooperatives and local governments.
Blog
Report

“Walking Backwards Into a More Cooperative Digital Future”
by **Jad Esber**
Esber's report explores the potential of web3 technology to create a more cooperative and decentralized internet, stressing the importance of applying cooperative principles to web3 projects and resisting short-termism and cash-oriented hype.
Blog
Report

“Lessons From Italy: The Italian Platform Cooperative Ecosystem and the Role of Municipal Institutions”
by **Pietro Ghirlanda**

cooperative data management and democratic governance structures, and recommends the formation of transnational alliances between cooperatives.
Blog
Report

"Worker-Owned Platform Co-ops and a Model for the Social Good"
by Adriane Clomax
This report discusses the need for clear definitions and proposes the use of the social good framework as a guide for measuring value.
Report

"Art for Everyone: Platformization of Cultural Work and Cooperativism as an Alternative"
by Victor Barcellos
Barcellos' report sets out to identify the possibilities and limitations of worker-owned digital platforms for creating a fairer and more democratic organization of work in the cultural sector.
Report

"Policy Proposals for Platform Cooperatives in India"
by Mohit Dave

country, and offering policy proposals.
Report

“The Potential for Platform Cooperatives in the Mondragon Ecosystem”
by **Sain López**
The report by López investigates the possibility of building platform cooperatives within the Mondragon Corporation ecosystem, particularly in the health, social care, transportation, and finance sectors.
Blog
Report

“How Do Platform Co-ops Work? Lessons from Argentina”
by **Denise Kasparian**
Kasparian's 2022/2023 Report focuses on the implementation of CoopCycle in Argentina by the Federation of Tech Worker Co-ops (FACTTIC), highlighting the benefits and challenges of scaling anti-capitalist platform cooperatives in Latin America while emphasizing the importance of community-oriented governance and decision-making.
Blog
Report

Parikh's Report proposes a multi-pronged policy strategy to support platform cooperatives, including antitrust and interoperability improvements, federal loans, tax incentives, and regulatory exemptions, as well as increased federal support, legal protection, cooperative education, and democratic governance.

Blog

Report

TWO UPCOMING EVENTS ON APRIL 5TH:

Advancements in Data Collectives and Data Commons: A Community Assembly

Apr 5th, 12:10 pm — 2:00 pm EDT

Participate in the upcoming community assembly to share novel approaches to data management, such as data collectives, with the aim of establishing a digital commons.

Blog

Register

Theory Jam Sessions
Exploring the Opportunities for Platform Cooperatives in India
PLATFORM CO-OP SCHOOL
Platform Cooperativism Consortium

Exploring the Opportunities for Platform Cooperatives in India

Apr 5th, 3:30 pm Indian ST / 6:00 pm Philippines ST / 6:00 am EDT

The rise of platformization in India is deepening the wealth and income divide while platform cooperatives strive to steer these developments in a cooperative direction.

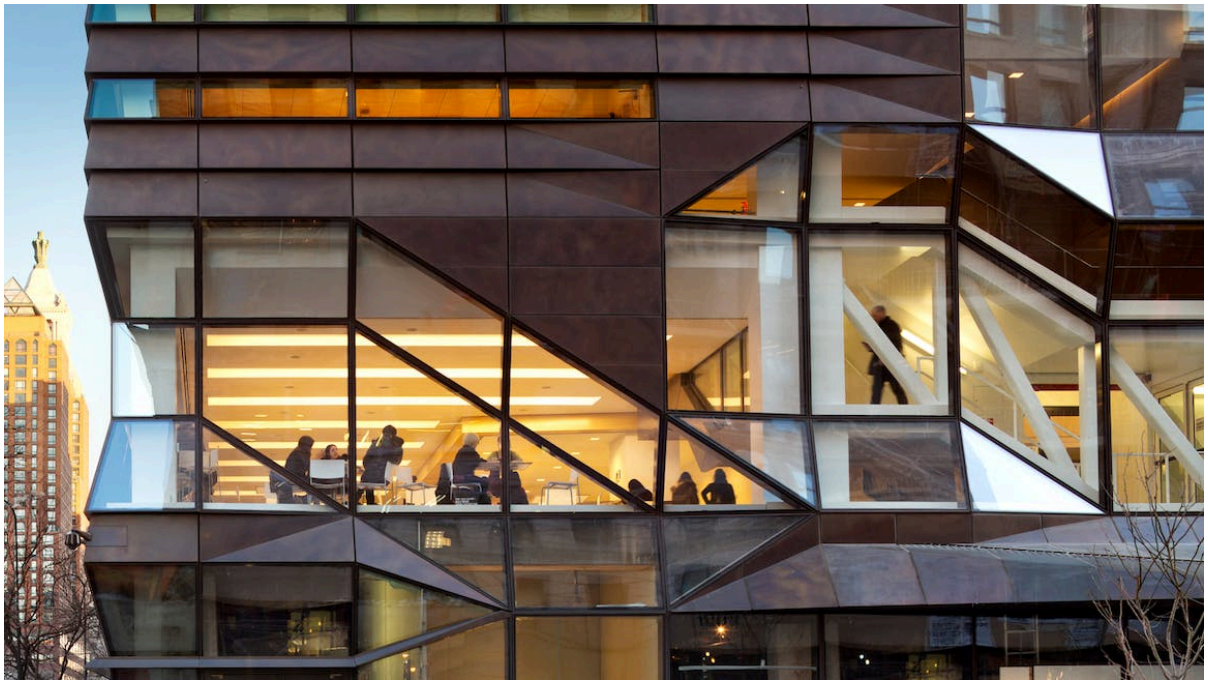
Blog

Register

When Co-op Principles Go Digital
The platform economy's challenges require near-term alternatives that value worker and community well-being, and while there are various theories of change proposing to create a more equitable system, combining different approaches may be the key to bringing about real change.
Read, Listen

[GERMAN] Wenn das Miteinander die Digitale Zukunft Gestaltet
Genossenschaften können eine Alternative zur Plattformökonomie bieten, da sie demokratische Entscheidungsfindung, faire Gewinnausschüttung und Mitgliederbildung fördern und auf das Wohlergehen von Arbeitnehmern und Gemeinden Wert legen.
Read

Scaling Platform Co-ops with Token-Based Financing
This blog essay highlights the potential for platform cooperatives to harness blockchain technology for scalability, but also identifies associated risks and proposes a dual token model for fundraising and governance to avoid legal issues and balance user and supporter interests.



The New School's Quest For Community Self-Governance

This blog essay proposes the idea of building a cooperative university, owned and operated by those who stand to gain or lose from its actions, as a solution to the failings of many universities in meeting the needs of those who rely on them.

Read

OWNING THE FUTURE
Já garantiu sua vaga na Conferência Internacional de Cooperativismo de Plataforma?
veja quem você vai encontrar por lá!

EXPLORING NEW FORMS OF COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP, HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RIO DE JANEIRO CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Revitalizing Online Sociality: Exploring New Forms of Community Ownership
Read and watch

Rio de Janeiro Conference
Read and watch

Platform Co-op School Community Assembly Highlights
Read and watch

Policy Recommendations To Support Worker Ownership in the Digital Economy
Read and watch

RESOURCES FROM OUR LIBRARY

How Cooperative Gig Economy Companies Managed to Flourish During the Pandemic
Platform co-ops, such as Consegne Etiche in Bologna, Italy, were able to thrive during the pandemic by benefiting both workers and businesses, and cities can

Read

Theorizing the Emergence of Platform Cooperativism: Drawing Lessons From Role-Set Theory

Merton's role-set theory explains why platform cooperatives may be preferred over traditional platform corporations, as they can resolve issues of power concentration, digital identities, and user statuses, though new disputes may still arise and cooperative governance best practices can help address them. [ResearchGate]

Read

You—Yes, You!—Would Be a Better Owner for Twitter Than Elon Musk

The article proposes that Twitter should be user-owned to prevent power consolidation and make it more democratic, highlighting the "Buy Twitter" campaign and outlining a pathway for "exit to community" to give entrepreneurs more exit choices. [WIRED]

Read

Using ESOPs to Democratize Labor-Based Platforms

This paper proposes a new strategy to address gig worker challenges in labor-based platform companies by democratizing the Employee Stock Ownership Plan to achieve co-ownership in local subsidiaries.

Read

Worker-Owned Apps Are Redefining the Sharing Economy

The Drivers Cooperative, a New York City-based platform cooperative, offers a model that gives Uber and Lyft drivers a greater portion of their earnings, along with other benefits, indicating a potential shift towards worker ownership in the digital realm. [ACM Digital Library]

Read

The Internet Is Broken. How Do We Fix It?

According to this article, the root cause of the problems with the internet and tech companies is the profit-driven business model, rendering the proposed solutions of regulation and competition ineffective. [The New York Times]

Read

Platforms for the People

The challenges faced by the platform economy due to falling tech stocks, declining investments, and rising global cost of living present an opportunity to transition towards cooperative models that prioritize workers' rights and local economic benefits instead of the current extractive industry dominated by venture capitalists

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